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**Illustrations: Yvonne Ford** 





The Republican Party is nicknamed the GOP, which stands for the Grand Old Party or Gallant Old Party!





The Republican Party symbol is the elephant! It came from an 1874 cartoon making fun of political parties. To many Republicans, the elephant symbolizes strength and intelligence!





A political platform is the set of ideas and issues that a political party believes in. The Republican platform includes personal responsibility, free market, low taxes, and strong national defense!